

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 13 stand rejected and claims 5-12 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-12. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The amendment made to claims 1 does not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendment has been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,152,311 (“Wheatley”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,557 (“Hirata”). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 not present in the cited reference is the exchange office “providing a synchronization signal from said exchange office to each of said base stations, and ... computing a time correction value for each base station ... and ... correcting said synchronizing signal supplied to said base stations according to said timing correction value”.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Hirata discloses the synchronizing signal sent to each of the base stations explicitly recited

in Applicant's claim. However, the system in Hirata is unlike that disclosed and claimed by Applicant.

Wheatley teaches a slave base station attaining synchronization with a reference base station through messages transmitted from and received by a mobile station. The base station then searches until it acquires the signal transmitted from the mobile station. In response to the acquisition of the reverse link signal, the base station adjusts its timing so that the mobile station can acquire its signal. As such, Wheatley fails to disclose the exchange of the timing and its synchronizing function explicitly recited in Applicant's claim.

In an attempt to cure this deficiency, the Office Action includes Hirata. However, Hirata fails to cure this deficiency. Hirata discloses a synchronizing signal data and clock signal sent from a timing control station and a synchronizing signal data and clock signal sent from an existing radio base station to an added radio base station provided at the same point as the existing radio base station. These synchronizing signals are compared at the base station for synchronization purposes.

In Hirata, each of the base stations receives a synchronizing signal from a synchronizing time control station. Each of Hirata's base stations has a synchronizing signal time correction means that subtracts the line delay, which is the synchronized time and control station to the radio base station, from the timing of the received synchronizing signal when the received synchronized signal data match with the same synchronizing signal data held by the radio base station. The system disclosed by Hirata does not disclose computing a time correction synchronizing

time signals at the exchange office as asserted in the Office Action at page 4. This is unlike Applicant's explicitly claimed invention.

According to Applicant's claimed invention, an exchange office sends a synchronizing signal to each base station. The exchange office has delay time detection means which detect an arrival delay of the synchronize signal to each of the base stations. This delay time is used to compute a time correction value for each base station which synchronizes radio communication timing of each of the base stations. The exchange office then supplies correction means to each of the base stations.

Claim 13 is a method claim corresponding to independent apparatus claim 1. Independent method claim 13 recites detecting an arrival time of said synchronizing signal to said base stations computing a time correction value which synchronizes timing of radio communication of all the base stations on the basis of the delay time detected for each of said base stations and correcting said synchronizing signal supplied to said base station according to said timing correction value. This method is not disclosed in the cited reference.

As previously discussed, Wheatley fails to disclose detecting of the arrival signal, arrival delay time of the synchronizing signal of each of the base stations. Further, the Hirata reference fails to cure this deficiency as in Hirata, the base station receives a synchronizing signal and each base station performs its own synchronization computation. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 13 be allowed.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: March 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs